



Julie Anderson

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Julie Anderson

SCHOOL: Berney Elementary

GRADE LEVEL: 5th Grade

Q. What are Literacy Centers and how do they help students learn?

A. Literacy Centers allow students to be responsible for accomplishing their own tasks. We set up stations throughout the classroom. Students stay at the station for 15 minutes doing various tasks. We also have two stations where they do independent work, but are able to collaborate with their peers. The goal is to give them a skill and have them be responsible for learning that task.

Q. How does this learning model challenge them to problem solve?

A. Students need to make a decision on what to do next if they finish early. We encourage them to read or review their work so they are more responsible and less teacher reliant.

Q. Why is it important to blend teaching strategies as they learn subject content?

A. We have a really strong emphasis in science, math and social studies and we do our best to integrate reading into those subjects. We include reading skills within our social studies program or with science or math. We also integrate our writing into these subjects as well.

Q. How do you use data to guide your instruction?

A. It's really important to use data to identify their needs right away so we can work with parents and students and have other resources available to get them on grade level. We don't want to send them off with holes that we could have addressed.

## COMMENTS FROM BERNEY ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL DAVID TALLEY:

"Julie is a great teacher. She has taught kindergarten as well as fifth grade and done an incredible job at both. She builds strong relationships with her students and provides a very engaging classroom environment. Julie is always open to learning new things and constantly looks to improve her teaching."

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
JULIE ANDERSON'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM JULIE...

"We've been working on middle school transition since the beginning of the school year. We're helping students develop skills to be more responsible for their own learning. They need to have these skills so they know when and how to ask for help."

"Thanks to my 5th grade teaching team for developing the Literacy Centers. We share responsibilities, so we don't have to do it alone. It really helps with time management."



Julie Anderson is also the Walla Walla High School Cheer Coach. She said her 5th grade students love it when the girls come to Berney to work on projects or help out at the school. She says her students are in awe of the cheerleaders.